Author tells why JFK had to die

By Corky Johnson
Associate Editor

Author Robert Morrow says he knows who *really* killed President John F. Kennedy — and why.

But is his story credible? Did the Central Intelligence Agency engineer the assassination or is Morrow's story more like something out of a "Who shot J.R." Dallas TV show episode?

"Everybody in the intelligence community wanted Jack Kennedy's ass," Morrow maintains. "They considered him a traitor to the nation." Now, Morrow, who operates a professional employment service in Blue Ash, says he is convinced there was a conspiracy to kill Kennedy. As far as he is concerned the case is closed. "I know more than 99 percent of the people do about the assassination," he said.

Morrow claims he came upon this knowledge while in the employ of the CIA. He became an agent for the "Company" in 1959 at age 32 after meeting with a patent attorney in Washington, D.C. An electronic engineer, Morrow had sought the help of the attorney to protect inventions he had developed in his Baltimore laboratory.

Among his inventions, Morrow says he was a pioneer with the first cable TV systems and video tape recorders. He says he was also consulting with several Washington firms on early-day nuclear projects.

Taking a special interest in his electronics background, the D.C. attorney introduced Morrow to Marshall Diggs, a friend of then Vice President Richard Nixon. It was Diggs who arranged for Morrow to be put on the CIA's payroll, working with Cuban underground leader Mario Kohly.

"Everything was handled under Army contract. They never hired any agent to work directly for the CIA," Morrow said. "I signed a contract and a secrecy oath but I wasn't allowed to have a copy," he chuckled. "We did everything in cash. We had access to up to a quarter of a million dollars anytime we needed it."

Morrow said he did everything necessary to aid the Cubans in attempting to overthrow Castro, including setting up communications systems and purchasing weapons in several parts of the world. He bought Thompson sub machine guns and vintage WWII rifles for the Bay of Pigs invasion, he said.

During a daring reconnaissance flight into Cuba for the Bay of Pigs invasion, Morrow recalls some scary moments when he had to fly the spy plane to safety, dodging Cuban fighters, after the pilot had been knocked out.

It was his assignment with the anti-Castro Cubans which lead Morrow into learning about members of the intelligence community's hatred for JFK, he said. The CIA had entered into an unholy alliance with heads of the Mafia, which controlled many of the Cuban exiles, Morrow said. The Mafia lost huge profits when Castro came to power and shut down the mob's operations on the island.

Organized crime wanted Kennedy dead because he was hurting their business and the intelligence community felt the President had handed Cuba over to the Soviet Union, Morrow said, explaining what would be the reasoning behind such a conspiracy.

He claims Kennedy's fate was sealed when the botched Bay of Pigs invasion revealed that Soviet missiles had

not been taken out of Cuba as Kennedy claimed. "When we found out the missiles weren't coming out of Cuba, that was the final nail in the coffin of Jack Kennedy," Morrow said.

Then, in October 1963, another planned invasion of Cuba was terminated by the Kennedy's. A month later JFK was gunned down. "I was told by Kohly that Kennedy would be killed," Morrow said. "They actually tried to kill him first in Florida but he took a helicopter instead of a motorcade."

Saying he was "scared to death" about the assassination, Morrow said he started working on his book "Betrayal" to clear his own name, which had become soiled by the Cuban invasions.

Presenting his evidence to Congressional investigators, Morrow said he knew he was taking risks by unearthing such information and has said he thinks several attempts were made on his life in the 1970s. "There is no threat today because the people who were involved are either dead or safe enough in their own right."

Looking back on the events, Morrow said he has few regrets over the Kennedy murder. "In my opinion JFK would have ruined the country. He was ruthless and would do anything to maintain his own power."

While he said he wouldn't have pulled the trigger himself, he added he has no doubts the Cubans would have. "I worked with them, but they were crazy, they would have done anything."

Morrow moved to Cincinnati because his wife is originally from here. His follow-up book on Robert Kennedy's assassination entitled, "The Senator Must Die," was published two years ago.

"I have gone through many trying years. I wouldn't want to relive those years," he said.